

ARP-ESSER III Funds Plan

The ARP ESSER III funds will be used in part to pay for additional staff that needed to be hired or expanded during the 2020-2021 school year to accommodate the mitigations put in place for in-person learning and to also provide a remote option as well. The Rockton School District provided in-person instruction for the entire school year.

For the 2021-2022 school year the Board decided to lower class size across the district in order to address student lost learning particularly with our low income, special education, and EL populations. This required the hiring of six new teachers and one speech pathologist. We also needed to hire four paraprofessionals to assist with COVID protocols and to assist in the additional classrooms. The new classrooms will require furniture, curriculum, and classroom supplies.

For the 2022-2023 school year we will continue to use ARP ESSER III funds to keep class sizes smaller than normal to address lost learning particularly with our low income, special education, and EL populations..

We will offer after school tutoring and programming and summer school programming for the 2020-21 through the 2023-2024 school year. This too will help our low income, special education, and EL populations.

The HVAC unit serving our kindergarten wing was replaced in order to provide better air quality. We are also planning on replacing numerous VAV control units at the middle school to better regulate air flow. Portable air conditioning units and fans were purchased to maintain appropriate air flow during some of this work. We will also use some of the money for ongoing HVAC repairs and upgrades including maintenance of our pneumatic systems at RGS and WPES

To stay prepared for the possibility of necessary remote learning we will use ARP ESSER III funds to enhance technology through replacement of student and teacher Chromebooks, installation of Promethean boards, repair of student Chromebooks, and other miscellaneous technology purchases. We will also use the funds to purchase i-Ready subscriptions to assess student loss and to have additional curriculum/digital subscription options for remote learners. We will also pay for technology professional development and mobile hotspots.

ARP ESSER III funds will also be used for various furniture needed to open the new classrooms in order to lower class size and to allow for better social distancing. Additionally, purchases will be made to allow for fewer Physical Education equipment to be shared and to allow for more outdoor PE opportunities. We will also purchase more band equipment to limit the sharing of instruments and to be able to conduct more music instruction outdoors.

ARP ESSER III funds will be used to pay for substitutes for all staff who were quarantined due to positive test results or for being a close contact during the 2020-2021 school year.

We will also be using the grant money to purchase supplies and equipment to disinfect throughout the school, including hand sanitizer, Clorox 360 machines, masks, gloves, plexiglass dividers, costs for disinfecting buses, etc. We will be adding fill stations to drinking fountains and replacing old sinks with sinks that have touchless faucets.

In preparation for the possibility of needing to return to remote learning the district will use the funds to purchase a box truck to allow us to deliver meals to families during a school closure.

ESSER III Funds totaled \$1,744,611 and will be used for the following:

Teacher Salary/Benefits – FY21	\$ 150,303.56
Teacher Salary/Benefits – FY22	\$ 588,767.76
Teacher Salary/Benefits – FY23	\$ 87,648.23
Non-certified staff hired to accommodate changes due to the pandemic.	\$ 60,000.00
Substitutes for staff forced to quarantine or isolate due to COVID.	\$ 26,389.00
Kindergarten HVAC	\$ 65,878.00
Misc. HVAC repairs, pneumatics/duct cleaning	\$ 200,000.00
Portable AC units and fans	\$ 4,720.45
Disinfecting supplies, thermometers and PPE	\$ 18,000.00
Band/PE equipment	\$ 65,000.00
Summer School	\$ 55,432.00
After school tutoring/programming	\$ 55,432.00
Furniture for social distancing and the creation of new classrooms.	\$ 16,500.00
Curriculum and supplies the creation of new classrooms.	\$ 3,800.00
Professional Development for technology.	\$ 32,040.00
Water fill stations and sink replacements.	\$ 56,500.00
Food Truck	\$ 50,000.00
Technology - Promethean Boards, teacher and student Chromebooks with cases, Chromebook parts and repairs, various other tech repairs, digital subscriptions, and mobile hotspots.	\$ 180,000.00
Adaption of gyms for use as cafeterias.	\$ 5,150.00
General supplies for in person learning, signage, additional walkie talkies, etc.	\$ 23,050.00
Total for ESSER III Funds	\$1,744,611.00

The ESSER III grant has included parent participation. The projects have been discussed at multiple Board of Education meetings. In fact, we have a standing BOE agenda item specifically regarding the pandemic. Parents have attended numerous Board meetings and provided public comment. We have also streamed BOE meetings to keep families informed. This plan will also be included on our school webpage.